

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 132450

PASS TO USDEL LOS

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 4068 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AND USIA DATED
18 JUNE 1974:

QTE

UNCLAS QUITO 4068

USIA FOR IOR/IOP/ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, EC

SUBJECT: LOS: MORE NEGATIVE COMMENT ON ECUADOREAN POSITION

REF: QUITO 3935; 3988

1. QUITO'S MORNING EL TIEMPO, WHICH LAST WEEK PUBLISHED
TWO LENGTHY COMMENTARIES BY FORMER FONMIN JULIO PRADO VALLEJO
HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOE'S LOS POSITION (REFTELS), ON JUNE 16
TOOK A FORMAL EDITORIAL STAND ECHOING PRADO'S VIEWS.

2. THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO TIEMPO'S
EDITORIALIST "IS, UNDOUBTEDLY, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THIS CENTURY", WHOSE SUCCESS OR
FAILURE WILL LEAD EITHER TO "PEACE AND RESPECTFUL COEXISTENCE"
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OR "TENSION AND DISSIDENCE". AT STAKE IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT

THE HIGH SEAS AND THEIR MARINE AND SUBSOIL RESOURCES BELONG TO THE WORLD AS A WHOLE AND SHOULD BE EXPLOITED "IN FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES".

3. ANOTHER QUESTION OF PRIME IMPORTANCE IS THAT OF "THE WIDTH OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND THE ZONE OF SOVEREIGN JURISDICTION WHICH A STATE OUGHT TO HAVE OVER ITS ADJACENT SEAS . . . THE CENTRAL POINT IS THE RIGHT OF A COASTAL STATE TO FIX, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHIC, GEOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS, THE WIDTH OF ITS TERRITORIAL SEA . . . FORTUNATELY, WE SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD THE CREATION OF AN EXCLUSIVE "ECONOMIC" ZONE, UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL STATE".

4. ECUADOR, MEANWHILE, HAS COSPONSORED A DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH PERU AND PANAMA TO BE CONSIDERED AT CARACAS WHICH, ACCORDING TO EL TIEMPO, IS COMPLETELY AT ODDS WITH ECUADOR'S OWN INTERNAL LEGISLATION. (ECUADOREAN LAW PROVIDES FOR A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA WHILE THAT OF PERU MERELY SPECIFIES A JURISDICTIONAL ZONE.) "THIS IS A POINT WHICH OUGHT TO BE CONTEMPLATED BEFORE SUBJECTING IT TO DISCUSSION AT THE CONFERENCE. IN ANY CASE THE DRAFT, IN THE FORM IN WHICH PRESENTED, DOES NOT SEEM TO BE VIABLE. IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, THEREFORE, TO CONSIDER THIS SITUATION TO AVOID A DIPLOMATIC DEFEAT WHICH WOULD LEAVE US ISOLATED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS." BREWSTER UNQTE KISSINGER

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